

CHAOS!
ON THE EDGE

Jolley • Molenaar • Arnold • Broeker

PURGATORI

#2

(of 2)

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GOD HUNTER



PURGATORI®

Purgatori: God Hunter #2

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THE STORY THUS FAR

Born a slave in Egypt 4000 years ago, the girl called Sakkara discovered her true nature when a vampire named Rath turned her, revealing that the blood of fallen angels flowed through her veins. Taking the name Purgatori, Sakkara became a demonic vampire goddess, eventually ruling her own otherworldly kingdom. But when a human mage summoned her to our world, Sakkara and Purgatori were separated into two aspects of the same being: the red-skinned, winged demon and the vampire woman who once again appears human. Furthermore, Sakkara has recently experienced things that make her believe her humanity may be reasserting itself in more than just appearance. Now she has accepted an invitation to return to Cairo, Egypt, where she will cooperate in aiding the return of three Egyptian gods to Earth by offering up her body as a channel. Or at least, that's what she's told the priest who invited her...

I would like to acknowledge Killer Wolf's contributions as an Associate Editor on the Purgatori: God Hunter series. Thank you Killer!

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OUTSIDE CAIRO, EGYPT.

YOU THOUGHT YOU COULD ARRANGE THINGS ANY WAY YOU LIKED, EH?

I KNEW SOMETHING WAS WRONG THE MOMENT I STEPPED OFF THE PLANE. A TENSION, AN ELECTRIC CRACKLE IN THE AIR.

YOU THOUGHT YOU KNEW WHAT WAS BEST. WHAT WAS PROPER.

SOMEONE WAITING. WAITING FOR ME. I KNEW THAT MUCH. BUT I COULDN'T HAVE ANTICIPATED HER...

THIS IS PROPER. YOUR IGNOMINY, YOUR LACK OF GRACE.

YOUR PAIN. THAT IS PROPER. THAT IS FITTING.

AND THAT IS ABOUT TO INCREASE.

HER EYES, SO INTOXICATING. HER MOUTH. SCATTERING MY THOUGHTS LIKE FRIGHTENED BIRDS.

I THOUGHT I COULD HANDLE ANYTHING. ANY DANGER, ANY THREAT. BUT I NEVER EXPECTED THIS.

SEVEN HOURS EARLIER.



THE PRIVATE PLANE LANDED WITH NO PROBLEMS, AND WHEN I FIRST FELT THE TINGLE OF PREMONITION I DISMISSED IT ENTIRELY.



HATEM, THE PRIEST WHO'D EXTENDED ME THIS "INVITATION," HAD SUITABLE TRANSPORTATION WAITING...



AND AS WE TRAVELED THROUGH THIS MODERN, TEEMING CAIRO, ANY FAINT GLIMMER OF CAUTION I MIGHT HAVE HAD WAS LOST --

--REPLACED BY MY PREOCCUPATION WITH THE BIZARRE EVENTS PLAGUING ME IN RECENT WEEKS.

TWICE NOW, I HAVE EXPERIENCED THINGS THAT ONLY A HUMAN MORTAL COULD. I HAVE FELT HUNGER, EATEN MORTAL FOOD.

AND I HAVE BEEN TOUCHED BY SUNLIGHT. SUNLIGHT WHICH DID NO DAMAGE.

I HAD HOPED TO FIND
ANSWERS IN THE DANTON
GRIMOIRE, THE BOOK OF
SPELLS I TOOK FROM MY
ENEMIES MONTHS AGO...



BUT INSTEAD OF CLUES TO THIS,
THIS THING TAKING PLACE INSIDE
ME, THE BOOK SHOWED ME A WAY
TO TASTE THE POWER OF A GOD --
AND THEN WREST IT FROM HIM.

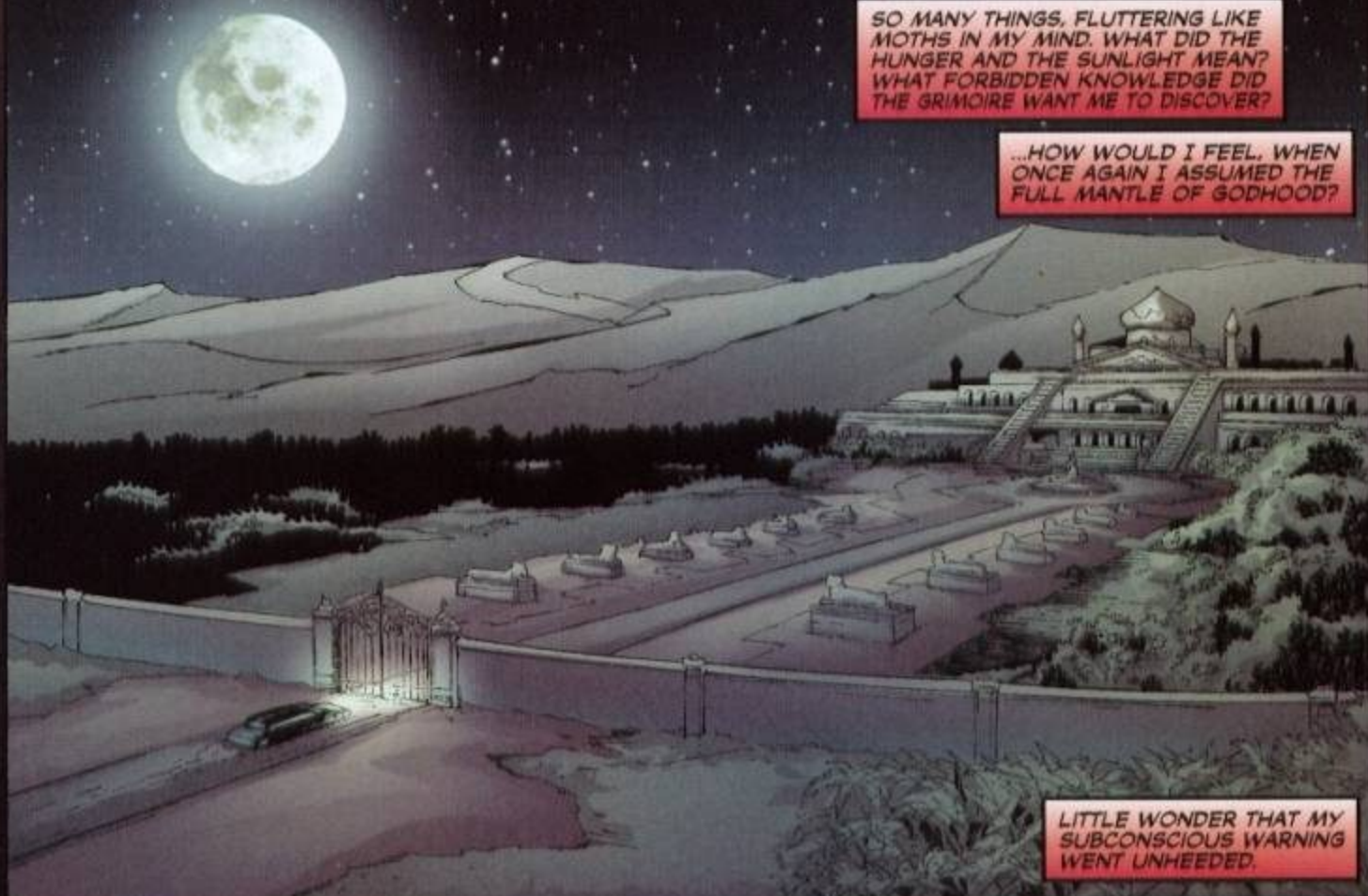
FOR A TIME I BELIEVED
THE BOOK WAS TRYING TO
TELL ME SOMETHING ELSE
AS WELL -- WHISPERING
OF SOME SECRET, LONG
LOST AND DARK.



I COULD NEVER
DECIPHER IT.

SO MANY THINGS, FLUTTERING LIKE
MOTHS IN MY MIND. WHAT DID THE
HUNGER AND THE SUNLIGHT MEAN?
WHAT FORBIDDEN KNOWLEDGE DID
THE GRIMOIRE WANT ME TO DISCOVER?

...HOW WOULD I FEEL, WHEN
ONCE AGAIN I ASSUMED THE
FULL MANTLE OF GODHOOD?



LITTLE WONDER THAT MY
SUBCONSCIOUS WARNING
WENT UNHEEDED.



SO WHAT
YOU'RE TELLING
ME -- ABOUT THESE
OTHERS. THE GODS
HAVE NOT YET MADE
THEIR FINAL, WHAT,
SELECTIONS?

CHOOSING A
VESSEL IS A MATTER
OF UTMOST GRAVITY,
I'M SURE YOU
UNDERSTAND.

THE MOST
PROMISING CANDIDATES
FROM AROUND THE GLOBE
HAVE BEEN GATHERED HERE.

I AM CONFIDENT YOUR
WORTHINESS WILL
PROVE ITSELF.

DON'T WORRY,
PRIEST. IF ANY ONE
PERSON DESERVES
TO BECOME ONE
WITH A DEITY...

...REST
ASSURED,
I AM THAT
PERSON.

AND NOW --
THE OTHERS
CHOSEN.

"COSTAS
TATOPOLOUS, A
YOUNG GREEK
STUDENT."

"MR. WING,
PROMINENT
HONG KONG
BUSINESSMAN."

"MR. DOMINIC
CHARLES DAVIS,
RENOWNED
AMERICAN
ARCHAEOLOGIST."

"MS. HELENA
ROSS, BRAZILIAN
HEIRESS."

"AND FINALLY, THE
YOUNG LADY WHO
CALLS HERSELF
RAKSHASA."



LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,
THE LAST MEMBER OF OUR
CIRCLE, MS. SAKKARA
GOLD.

I HAVE MOST
OF THEM READ
IN SECONDS.
THE TREMORS
OF THEIR HEARTS,
THE SUDDEN
SHARP TANG OF
THEIR SWEAT.

HELLO.

A
PLEASURE,
MS. GOLD.

FEW SURPRISES. DAVIS,
ALL COOL DEMEANOR AND
EXPECTANT SWAGGER.
COSTAS, WITH TEENAGE
LUSTS UNDERLYING HIS
OUTWARD POLITENESS.

BUT THE ONE HATEM
CALLED RAKSHASA...
IF MY HEART STILL
PUMPED, IT WOULD HAVE
STOOD MOTIONLESS
AT THE SIGHT OF HER.

THOUGH I FORCED
A CALM EXTERIOR,
MY BLOOD BEGAN
TO QUIVER AS
I TOOK HER IN.

AN UNEXPECTED FIRE
IN THE DESERT... A
FIRE WHOSE HEAT I
FELT INSTANTLY. A
FIRE I WANTED MORE
OF IMMEDIATELY.

THE
PLEASURE
IS MINE.

A FIRE WHICH
ALLOWED ME
TO OVERLOOK
THE OBVIOUS.

I HELD BACK FROM THE
CROWD, NOT EVEN WILLING
TO SPEAK AS THE PRIEST
REMINDED US WHY WE
HAD BEEN SUMMONED.



NOW... ALL OF YOU KNOW YOU'VE BEEN ASKED HERE TO PARTICIPATE IN A GLORIOUS TRANSFIGURATION -- THE RETURN OF THE HIGHEST AND MOST HOLY RULERS, TEHUT, ISIS AND SET.

THIS OBELISK WILL BE THE INSTRUMENT OF THAT MOST EXALTED EVENT. LOOSELY TRANSLATED, IT IS CALLED A "SUMMONING STONE."



THE STONE IS A THING OF GREAT AND UNIQUE POWER... JUST AS EACH OF YOU ARE. AND, THOUGH YOU HAVE JUST ARRIVED, AND ARE STILL STRANGERS TO ONE ANOTHER --

--THE TIME HAS COME TO GROW MUCH CLOSER. THE TIME HAS COME TO SHARE AND DISPLAY EACH OF THE TALENTS WHICH LED TO YOUR ANOINTING.

YOUNG MASTER COSTAS, IF YOU WOULD... PLEASE DEMONSTRATE FOR US YOUR SINGULAR ABILITY.

WH -- HUH? RIGHT NOW? IN, IN, IN FRONT OF EVERYONE?

THERE'S NO NEED TO BE EMBARRASSED, LAD. YOU ARE MORE AT HOME AMONG US THAN YOU REALIZE.

WELL... UH... ALL RIGHT.

I JUST, UM, THINK ABOUT MOVING STUFF, Y'KNOW?



AND STUFF MOVES.

VERY GOOD! AN IMPRESSIVE DISPLAY OF TELEKINESIS!

AND NOW, MS. ROSS, I THINK?



IT WOULD HARDLY BE PRACTICAL
TO DEMONSTRATE MY TALENT
AT THE MOMENT, HATEM.

ON THE
CONTRARY, *MOCA*
FASCINANTE. WE
ARE NOTHING IF NOT
PREPARED.

AH,
VERY WELL,
THEN.

HMM... YES,
QUITE A SUITABLE
SPECIMEN. A RECENT
DEATH, CAUSED
BY... BOTULISM.
WAS IT?

UP.

THERE.
SATISFIED?

WELL...
IF YOU'LL
INDULGE
ME.

YOUR ANIMATE
CORPSES ARE
POSSESSED OF ALL
THE TALENTS THEY
HAD WHILE LIVING,
CORRECT?

THAT'S
RIGHT.

AND OUR
FRIEND, THE
DECEASED, WAS A
VERY DANGEROUS
MAN INDEED.





WELL, I'VE
STUDIED PRETTY
EXTENSIVELY
MYSELF...



BUT I
THINK MR. WING
MIGHT SAY I
CHEATED.

EVERY SPELL,
EVERY INCANTATION
I'VE COME ACROSS IN
EVERY ANCIENT TOMB.
I'VE STUDIED ALL
OF THEM.



NOW, IF I
CAN BE A PART
OF THIS... WHY
WE'RE ALL
HERE...

WELL, IT'D BE
THE CROWNING
ACHIEVEMENT
TO MY CAREER.
WOULDN'T IT?



BUT I'M
FAR FROM THE
ONLY ONE WITH
SOME POTENT
MAGIC HERE
TONIGHT.



QUITE
RIGHT, YOUNG
LADY...?

OH --
IT'S MY
TURN?

RIGHT, MY
PARENTS WERE ENGLISH,
MISSIONARIES TO INDIA...
AND AS SOME OF YOU MAY
KNOW, A RACE OF SHAPE-
SHIFTING **DEMONS**
LIVES THERE, IN
THE JUNGLES.



ONE DAY,
WHEN MY MOTHER
WAS ALONE, ONE
OF THE DEMONS...
VISITED HER.

AND NINE
MONTHS LATER I
WAS BORN.



MY FATHER
TRIED TO KILL ME
AT BIRTH... BUT I REACHED
OUT, FROM MY MOTHER'S
ARMS, AND SLASHED
HIS THROAT.



SHE LEFT ME IN THE
JUNGLE TO DIE, BUT
I SURVIVED.

WITHOUT GOING INTO DETAIL,
I HAVE FOUND NO PLACE FOR
MYSELF WITH EITHER HUMANS
OR THE DEMON-KIND.

AND
SO I AM
HERE.



VERY GOOD.
VERY GOOD. AND
NOW, SAKKARA, IF
YOU WILL?



IF I WILL
WHAT?

AHEM... IF
YOU WILL PLEASE
SHARE WITH US
YOUR OWN UNIQUE
TALENTS?

FORGET IT. I
HAVE NOTHING TO
PROVE TO ANYONE.



EXCUSE
ME. NO.

THAT IS **UNACCEPTABLE**. WE HAVE ALL
DEMONSTRATED WHY WE WERE CHOSEN -- YET YOU
WOULD **DISHONOR** THESE PROCEEDINGS BY REFUSING?



YOU WOULD
DO WELL TO KEEP
A CIVIL TONGUE IN
YOUR HEAD, HUMAN.
I AM HERE BY
INVITATION.



IT IS
OBVIOUS WHAT
YOU **ARE**, VAMPIRE!
YOU THINK ONE OF YOUR
ILK CAN TAKE PART IN THIS,
THIS MOST **SACRED**
AND **HONORED**
OF NIGHTS?

YOUR MERE
PRESENCE
HERE IS AN
OBSCENITY!



NOT VERY LONG AGO I
WOULD HAVE RIPPED OUT
HIS HEART WHERE HE
STOOD FOR THOSE WORDS.
BUT IN THIS WORLD I AM
LEARNING PATIENCE...

NOW, MR. WING,
SAKKARA HAS INDEED
PROVEN HER TALENTS
BEFORE TONIGHT. IF SHE
CHOOSES NOT TO DISPLAY
THEM NOW, SO BE IT.



THE SERVANTS
WILL SHOW YOU ALL TO
YOUR ROOMS NOW, SO THAT
YOU MAY UNPACK AND SETTLE
IN. WE'LL CONTINUE THIS
TOMORROW NIGHT.

...PATIENCE TO WAIT
UNTIL AFTER I HAD
TAKEN THE POWER
OF MIGHTY SET FOR
MY OWN. THEN... THEN
THE OLD MAN WOULD
SUFFER. TERRIBLY.
AND AT GREAT LENGTH.

BESIDES -- I HAD
OTHER BUSINESS.
BUSINESS MORE BASIC.

MORE URGENT.

HEAT LIKE SUCCULENT
FIRE COURSED ALONG
MY BONES AS I LET
MYSELF INTO HER ROOM



AH...



I HOPED
YOU'D
COME.



WE SPEAK NO
FURTHER WORDS
FOR SOME TIME. NO
FURTHER WORDS
ARE NECESSARY.



HER EYES HEAT THE BLOOD
IN MY HEART... THE TASTE
OF HER SKIN WEAVES ITSELF
ALONG EACH OF MY NERVES.

BEFORE I KNOW
IT I FIND MYSELF
CHARMED. CAPTIVATED.

LOST IN A HAZE. A DELICIOUS MIST,
I'D FELT NOTHING LIKE THIS SINCE...
SINCE MY QUEEN. SO LONG. LONG AGO.

SHE DROVE ALL THOUGHTS FROM
MY HEAD IN A MAD, HURRICANE
RUSH. I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN
SUCH RAPTURE WOULDN'T LAST.

SAKKARA...
DID YOU KNOW...
DID YOU KNOW AS
SOON AS YOU SAW ME?
THAT THIS WOULD
HAPPEN?

...YES.

SO DID I!
ALL THE PLACES
I'VE GONE. THE PEOPLE
I'VE MET... MY TRAVELS
ACROSS EUROPE AND
THE STATES AND
AFRICA...

THIS IS
THE FIRST TIME
I'VE EVER MET
ANOTHER.

HMM?
"ANOTHER?"

ANOTHER
WHAT?

ANOTHER
LIKE *ME*. I MEAN,
YOU ALREADY HEARD
ME SAY IT -- I'M HALF
DEMON. HALF HUMAN.
AND YOU...

I COULD
SENSE IT. AS SOON
AS YOU WALKED INTO
THE COURTYARD. THERE'S
SOMETHING ABOUT YOU --
SOMETHING *MORTAL*. I
JUST CAN'T PIN IT
DOWN YET.

WHAT?

THAT IS THE MOST
RIDICULOUS, MOST
INSULTING --

HUH?
BUT, WAIT,
I --

HOW *DARE*
YOU MAKE SUCH
AN ACCUSATION? I
AM A *GODDESS*. I
AM WORSHIPED,
AND I AM NO MERE
MORTAL.

BUT, BUT,
I DON'T, I -- I
MEAN, I DIDN'T
MEAN --

IT'S CLEAR
WHAT YOU *MEANT*.
AND YOU CAN KEEP
YOUR IMBECILIC
"OBSERVATIONS" TO
YOURSELF.

SAKKARA...

SAKKARA,
PLEASE, I'M
SORRY! YOU
CAN *TRUST*
ME! COME
BACK!

TRUST HER. HA. HER WORDS PREYED ON MY MIND AS I RETURNED TO MY ROOM. "SOMETHING MORTAL." I WANTED NOTHING MORE THAN TO DISMISS IT AS NONSENSE.

AND YET... COULD I? COULD I DISMISS IT AT ALL? THE GROWLING HUNGER... THE SUNLIGHT ON MY SKIN... WHAT AM I BECOMING? WHAT HAVE I BECOME?

RRRHH...

YOU'RE IN THE WRONG ROOM, INSECT! GET OUT!

IT'S NOT A QUESTION OF MY BEING IN THE WRONG ROOM, SAKKARA.

IT'S MORE A QUESTION OF YOU BEING IN THE WRONG HOUSE.

SEE, UNTIL I ARRIVED HERE TODAY, I DIDN'T REALIZE THAT LORD SET HAD ALSO CONSIDERED YOU AS A POSSIBLE VESSEL.

I'VE WORSHIPED HIM ALL MY LIFE. EVERYTHING I'VE DONE HAS BEEN IN PURSUIT OF HIS FAVOR.

AND NOW SOME LITTLE VAMPIRE CHICKIE MIGHT TAKE MY PLACE, WHEN I HAVE THE CHANCE TO MEET HIM?

TO PARAPHRASE OUR FRIEND MR. WING, THAT IS UNACCEPTABLE.

IDIOT. IDIOT. I MUST BE
PART MORTAL. TO HAVE MADE
SUCH A MORONIC MISTAKE.



I OVERLOOKED THE
PLAYBOY WIZARD...
JUST DISREGARDED
HIM. AND WALKED
RIGHT INTO THIS.

WHICH BRINGS
US BACK TO
THE PRESENT.



...AND THAT
IS ABOUT TO
INCREASE.



AAAAAIEEEEE!

I WAS AFRAID YOU'D PICK UP ON HOW I FELT THIS AFTERNOON... HOW ANGRY I WAS. HOW MUCH I WANTED TO GET RID OF YOU.

BUT WING PROVIDED THE PERFECT COVER. BLESS HIS HEART. HIS INTENTIONS ARE GOOD.

GOD, WOMAN, AREN'T YOU DEAD YET?

DAVIS...
...WHEN YOU SKIN SOMETHING, YOU SHOULD BEAR IN MIND...

YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT YOU MIGHT UNCOVER.

THE SAND, THE MOON... I'VE
COME HOME. HOME TO
EGYPT. HOME TO BLOOD.

IT TAKES ONLY SECONDS
FOR SAKKARA'S MEMORIES
TO SETTLE IN. ADJUST, BECOME
MY OWN. A FEW BLINKS TO
CLEAR THE DOUBLE-VISION.



I HAVE THE CHANCE TO
USURP THE POWER OF
SET... THE POWER OF A
GOD... AND THIS HUMAN
SEEKS TO STOP ME?

NOW
WOULD BE THE
TIME TO SCREAM,
LITTLE MAN



EXAAAAHHH!



AUGH!

BUT THE HUMAN'S BLOOD
BACKS UP IN MY THROAT.
SWEET HOURS, I'VE NEVER
TASTED SUCH CORRUPTION.
SUCH FILTH. THE MAN IS
LIKE A LIVING DISEASE.



SO
YOU'RE MORE
THAN JUST
A VAMPIRE,
THEN?

FINE.

I'LL
BURN YOU
NO MATTER
WHAT.

AAARRRH!

I LOOK AT THIS PITIFUL,
PUNY LITTLE MAN AND
MY GORGE RISES.

THE IMPLICATION -- THE VERY
THOUGHT -- THAT ANY PART OF
ME COULD BE LIKE THESE PATHETIC
CREATURES... THESE MORTALS...

...MUST BE
DESTROYED.

NO MATTER WHAT THE GIRL,
RAKSHASA, MAY THINK.

DIE, HUMAN.
DO YOU HEAR
ME? DIE!

I HAVE
THE POWER OF
FAITH, YOU FREAK! I
WILL SERVE MY LORD
AND MASTER!
I WILL --

NO MATTER
HOW CLOUDED
INFATUATION
HAS RENDERED
MY JUDGEMENT.





AH... THE
DANTON GRIMOIRE.
RATH THE CELT'S
MOST SIGNIFICANT
CONTRIBUTION TO
ACADEMIA.

SO THE LOVELY
MS. GOLD THOUGHT TO
CONSPIRE AGAINST US,
HMM? SOUGHT TO USE A
COUNTER-SPELL...
MAKE SET'S MIGHT
HER OWN.

SILLY
GIRL.

To Be Continued!

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ISSUE ONE OF FIVE



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JOHN **OSTRANDER** IVAN **REIS** JOE **PIMENTEL** HI-FI

CHAOS!
ON THE EDGE

**AN ANCIENT EVIL RETURNS, POSING AS THE NEW MESSIAH...
CAN LADY DEATH BE TRUSTED TO SAVE US ALL?**

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